

JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord – Carlisle School Committee  
Concord School Committee  
CCHS Learning Commons, Room 241  
April 9, 2018

- Present: Heather Bout, Chair, CSC; CCSC  
Johanna Boynton, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC  
Dan Conti, Chair, CCSC; CSC  
Robert Grom, Vice Chair, CCSC; CSC  
Wallace Johnston, CSC; CCSC  
Melissa McMorrow, CCSC
- Absent: Mary Storrs, CCSC
- Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD  
John Flaherty, Deputy Superintendent of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Conti called the CCSC meeting to order at 5:36 PM the CSC meeting was then called to order by Ms. Bout. Ms. Bout noted that they had one change regarding moving the articles at Town Meeting, stating that she would be moving both Articles 9 and 11.

**II. PREPARATION FOR TOWN MEETING**

**III. DISCUSSION**

A. Discuss the FY2019 Regional School Budget. Dr. Hunter stated that they realized that there was a discrepant number being used between the Town and School Department, noting that it was a miscommunication. She stated that the discrepancy totaled \$143,000 on the Concord side, noting that after Carlisle's contribution, the total shortfall from the guideline is \$189,000. Dr. Hunter stated that they have spent the last few days brainstorming what the options are given the timing, noting that the options are different now than they would have been a month ago. She stated that they focused on the revenue side, since this would allow them to maintain the number that they voted. She stated that her suggestion, given the timing, is to look at using E & D. She stated that they have been holding the contribution at \$500,000 in FY19 vs. \$700,000 in FY18, noting that they wanted to reverse the momentum. She suggested, since it was the night of Town Meeting and they need a solution, to allocate the \$189,000 difference from E & D to close the budget.

Mr. Flaherty stated that the assumptions the Finance Committee used are the Governor's Budget for Chapter 70 as well as the Governor's Budget for regional transportation aid. He noted that he anticipates regional transportation aid being higher than expected because the number is based on previous years and the actual amount is based on expenses submitted. He also stated that he was comfortable increasing the revenue forecast for investment earnings because the interest rates have been rising. He stated that they took a conservative posture with the revenue projections. He stated that with this adjustment of \$189,460, they are approaching a very dangerous crossroad, noting that he was advocating for an increase in the revenue sources.

Ms. McMorrow asked if it's possible, should the revenue projections materialized, to use the funds to replenish E & D. Mr. Flaherty stated that they could use the funds from additional revenue sources, as long as they under run the budget accordingly.

Dr. Hunter stated that the legislature has been looking at the shift of circuit breaker, and noted that the House recently voted to put it at 72%. She stated that there are positive thoughts that this will make it through the Senate and become real in FY18, noting that there may be revenue there of \$80,000 - \$90,000.

Ms. Bout stated that she would feel more comfortable closing the gap with E & D for now, hoping that revenue comes in to replenish the E & D at the end of the year.

A motion was made by Ms. McMorrow, seconded by Ms. Bout, to move the agenda item, Action Item A, to this point in the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

A. Vote the March 20th Adopted Budget with revised sources of funds. A motion was made by Mr. Johnston, seconded by Ms. McMorrow, to increase the Excess & Deficiency line from \$500,000 to \$689,460, for a total expense budget of \$33,749,420. Mr. Johnston stated that if this number had been presented to them a few weeks ago, he would not have voted to move the number. He noted that they need to be very diligent in next years budget to increase the E & D line.

Ms. Bout agreed that they need to be diligent about increasing E & D. Ms. Boynton noted that they might be finding a similar scenario next year. Mr. Conti noted a theme that has emerged over the last 4 days is that the optics are not good and that the next committee needs to address this issue moving forward. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. CCRSD Warrant Article 13. Dr. Hunter reviewed Article 13, which includes the paving and lighting for CCHS. She noted that the Campus Advisory Committee will be making recommendations and also noted that parking is not an element of this discussion. She noted that some sidewalks are included, since they are asphalt. She stated that the total estimated cost for paving is \$455,000 and total for both paving and lighting is \$749,100. Ms. McMorrow noted that they have already approved the Article for \$1 million. Dr. Hunter noted that her last recommendation was to wait a year to include the Campus Advisory Committee's recommendations so they could build a plan with parking in it.

Ms. Bout questioned the possibility of temporary lighting. Brian Schlegel, Facilities Manager, stated that they have 2 poles that could be installed at the 2 corners at the stop signs where they cross over to the Beede Center.

Ms. Boynton stated that she feels that this was always on a list of things to finish from the high school project, noting that the number has been brought down. She stated that this would complete the project and make the campus safer; noting that they have had capital projects other years as well.

Mr. Grom stated that he drove through the campus at night and stated that he feels they can wait another year to do the paving. Ms. Boynton questioned what changed since they unanimously voted to move the article. Mr. Grom stated that he drove through the campus and thinks the paving can be put off. He stated that the corner at the first stop sign is dark and is a safety issue. Ms. Boynton noted that the next year may bring a lot more projects, including the middle school and capital needs at the high school. She noted that paving and lighting were always on the list of things to do during the high school building project, but that they concentrated on finishing the items that needed to be completed while the construction was being done. She noted that paving and lighting were moved down on the list since they could do them without disrupting what was already done. Mr. Grom stated that another year would allow them to plan and to hear from the Campus Advisory Committee in order to take a more comprehensive approach. Ms. Boynton noted that they might not have support for an article next year.

Mr. Johnston asked Mr. Schlegel for an estimate for installing the poles that he currently has to the corners being discussed as lighting issues and Mr. Schlegel stated it would cost an estimated \$10,000.

Ms. Bout stated that she feels more comfortable waiting a year to get more details, knowing that they have potential to address the lighting issue.

Mr. Johnston noted that if they move the article, they don't need to do the work this summer. He noted his concern for marrying this project and the parking project in the same article. He noted that moving the article doesn't mean that they can't be just as measured about how they move forward as they would be if they chose not to move it.

Ms. Bout asked Dr. Hunter if she still had concerns and Dr. Hunter stated that she did have concerns with timing, but did agree that the work needs to be done. She noted that her recommendation was still to wait.

#### **IV. ACTION ITEMS**

B. Vote to amend or withdraw Article 13. A motion was made by Ms. Bout, seconded by Mr. Grom, to not move Article 13 at Town Meeting. Ms. Bout and Mr. Grom voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Johnston was opposed to the motion. Ms. Boynton, Ms. McMorrow and Mr. Conti abstained from the vote. The motion carried.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. McMorrow, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 5/7/18

#### Abbreviations:

ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
CASE	Cooperative Association for Special Education
CSC	Concord School Committee
CCSC	Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee
CMLP	Concord Municipal Light Plant
CPA	Community Preservation Act
CPC	Community Preservation Committee
CPS	Concord Public Schools
CCRSDD	Concord-Carlisle Regional School District
CCHS	Concord-Carlisle High School
CHPS	The Collaborative for High Performance Schools
CSEC	Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee
CPW	Concord Public Works
CTA	Concord Teachers Association
DESE	Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
ELA	English Language Arts
FAAC	Financial Audit Advisory Committee
FINCOM	Finance Committee
FCCPF	Friends of Concord Carlisle Playing Fields
MAAB	Massachusetts Architectural Access Board
MASC	Massachusetts Association of School Committees
MIAA	Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
NEASC	New England Association of Schools and Colleges
NESDEC	The New England School Development Council
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
OPEB	Other Post-Employment Benefits
PEG	Public Education Government
RTI	Response to Intervention
SEPAC	Special Education Parent Advisory Council
SOI	Statement of Interest
SPED	Special Education
SWOT	Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey